

Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities Citizen Advisory Board

The Board meets monthly, on the fourth Tuesday of each month, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at Providence General Hospital–Pacific Campus in Everett. Contact Stuart Torgerson 425-388-7208 or stuart.torgerson@snoco.org

Purpose of the Advisory Board – Washington State statute (RCW 71A.14) defines the County's responsibilities in the area of developmental disabilities and outlines the option for a community board to be established to advise the County regarding its duties. County responsibilities outlined in the statute include the following:

- 1) Serve as an informational and referral agency within the community for persons with developmental disabilities and their families.
- 2) Coordinate local services for persons with developmental disabilities and their families to ensure the maximum use of all available services.
- 3) Provide specific services, as outlined in a current biennial state/county contract.
- 4) Prepare comprehensive plans for present and future development of services.

The Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board advises the County Human Services staff regarding all the duties listed above.

Activities of the Board in the Developmental Disabilities Community System – Board members are closely involved in a number of County activities, including

Review of contracting of state funds

Snohomish County develops and maintains contracts with community agencies to provide employment and community support services to adults, and childhood development services to children, age birth to three years. The Board reviews specific information presented by the County staff and advises and makes recommendations regarding the development, monitoring, and evaluation of those contracts.

Community planning

The County is responsible to do comprehensive planning for services to meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. The planning is coordinated with a variety of State and local government and private agencies. The State Division of Developmental Disabilities provides case management, residential and in-home support services to individuals and families.

Other community agencies provide other services such as advocacy, mental health supports, transportation, recreation, and so on. The Board provides advice and assistance to county staff to prepare and review local developmental disabilities plans.

Development and review of local grants

The Board assists county staff in promoting community development and education through County-funded grants and projects. The targeted outcomes of these grants are derived from the comprehensive planning process discussed above.

In addition to the activities above, the Board provides a regular monthly forum for community members to bring all issues and concerns "to the table" for discussion and review. The Board also can sponsor and request that staff develop special community forums and training opportunities, as need arises.

Structure and Operation of the Board – The Advisory Board, as defined by Snohomish County resolution, consists of up to 15 members, appointed by the County Council, each serving terms of three years, renewable for up to three terms. The Board elects co-chairs annually at the January meeting. The Board may authorize active committees, both ad hoc and standing, to accomplish specific tasks. These committees are expected to make regular reports to the full Board.

Staff members of the Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities Program are available to provide support and information as needed for Board activities.